

SHANGHAI ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ POLICE.

File No. ....

Special Branch - C36 <sup>7853</sup> Station, " 37

## REPORT

Date April 16, 1937.

Subject Robert DURRER, German - Sino-German "Barter" Trade Agreement.

Made by D.S. Pitts.

Forwarded by

D.B. Lins e.s.i.

In continuation of a previous report dated March 31, 1937 on the above subject, it has now been learned that Mr. DURRER intends returning to China in either June or July of this year in order to conduct further negotiations with Nanking regarding the Sino-German "barter" trade agreement.

It has been ascertained that DURRER, who is a Professor at the University of Berlin and who AT PRESENT occupies the chair in Metallurgy at that institution, is only able to make flying visits to China during vacation periods with the express permission of the University authorities; he intends to remain in China on his next visit for about three months, i.e. the entire period of the summer vacation.

He will again be acting on behalf of "HAPRO," the full name of which is "HAndelsgesellschaft fuer Industrielle PROdukte." (Industrial Products Trading Company.).

D.S. Pitts

D. S.

D.C. (Special Branch).

**CONFIDENTIAL**

785.3  
17- 11- 37

April

16

37.

My dear Hill,

With reference to your letter dated  
16th March, 1937, I forward herewith a copy  
of a further report concerning Robert Durrer,  
a German.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) K. M. Burns.

F. L. Hill, Esq.,

H.B.M. Consulate-General,

Shanghai.

FILE

dbR

194  
1

CONFIDENTIAL  
DRAWER

CONFIDENTIAL

31-7853  
3-17

March

31

37.

My dear Hill,

With reference to your letter dated 16th March, 1937, I send herewith for your information a <sup>x</sup>copy of a report on the subject of Robert Durrer, a German.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) K. M. Bourne.

\* Enclosed  
Lu 21/3

F. L. Hill, Esq.,

H.B.M. Consulate-General,

Shanghai.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. ....

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Special Branch - CS6.

7853  
Station, 37

**REPORT**

Date March 31, 1937.

Subject Communication dated March 16, 1937 from H.B.M. Consulate-General  
regarding one Robert DURRER, a German.

Made by D.S. Pitts.

Forwarded by

*Em Golden D.S.*

Robert DURRER, German, a Professor in Metallurgy at the University of Berlin, last arrived in Shanghai on March 8, 1937 from Singapore on the s.s. "Conte Verde." He returned to Singapore en route for Berlin on March 26, 1937 on the s.s. "Scharnhorst."

Durrer remained at the Park Hotel in Shanghai for a day after his arrival here and then made his way to Nanking. It has been ascertained that the object of his trip to Nanking was connected with certain financial details relating to the Sino-German "barter" trade agreement signed in the spring of 1936 between representatives of high Nanking officials and delegates of the Reich Government.

The terms of this agreement, in brief, were designed to provide Germany with Chinese raw materials, especially fats, in exchange for German heavy armaments, electrical and textile machinery.

Part of Mr. Durrer's duties consisted of arranging details as to the nature, price and amount of goods to be exchanged and the means of transportation to be employed. In this connection, it has been learned that the gentleman in question is acting on behalf of the well-known Berlin trading firm "Hapro," which, being a semi-governmental organisation, is virtually responsible for the carrying out of the "trade details" of the "barter."

"Hapro" conducts business in every commodity from the export of heavy machinery to the import of pea-nuts and has been entrusted by the Reich Government with the task of conducting all negotiations necessary with the Chinese Government for the successful consummation of the agreement.

x 47420

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.....

REPORT

Station,

Date.....19

2

Subject.....

Made by.....Forwarded by.....

According to information received, Mr. Durrer will return to Shanghai and Nanking in the near future to conduct further business transactions with the Chinese officials.

In addition to the trip mentioned above, Mr. Durrer arrived in Shanghai on July 23, 1936 from Berlin via Singapore on the m.v. "Victoria," after which he proceeded to Nanking, where he conferred with various officials of the Ministry of Finance on the "barter" agreement question. He left Shanghai on the s.s. "Conte Rosso" on October 5, 1936 en route to Berlin via Singapore.

*J. P. W.*

D. S.

D.C. (Special Branch).

*8/24*  
*8/25*

Personal & Confidential.

BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL,

P.O. BOX 289.

SHANGHAI.

16th March 1937.

My dear Bourne,

I enclose, herewith, a report which I have received from the Singapore Police on the subject of ROBERT DURRER, together with his debarkation form.

I would be grateful for any information which you may be able to obtain concerning this man's activities.

Yours Sincerely,

*H. Hill*

Major K.M. Bourne M.C.,  
Shanghai Municipal Police,  
Foochow Road,  
Shanghai.

*SSC. (D.S. Kites)*  
*DBR*  
*16/3*



*S.I. report*  
*not available in file*  
*3 CSB.*



MO.

C O P Y.

From: Registrar of Aliens, Singapore.  
To: Director, Special Branch, Singapore.

2nd March, 1937.

Robert DURRER, German.

I attach S.B. 12 on the above person.

He is a Professor of Metalurgy at the Berlin University and is on his way to Nanking. This is his third trip East and he says the fastest he has made.

He left Rome on 25/2/37 and proceeded to Athens, Alexandria, Lydia, Bagdad, Basra, Bushire, Djask and Karachi. Then across India and to Singapore, arriving on 1/3/37.

The Swiss person staying at the Adelphi and having the same name is no relation of his. He was astonished that there should be another person of this name, saying that it was a rare name. He hails from the Bodensee district and is probably as much Swiss as German.

When asked was he in Government service he replied, "partly", but the object of his visit to Nanking was work in connection with the University.

He returns to Singapore on the 2nd or 3rd of April this year, leaving the same day for Germany by Air.

His last visit to Singapore was on 15/7/36 when he arrived from Berlin by plane and left two days later for Nanking. He returned on 12/10/36 by ship and stayed two days taking K.L.M. plane to Berlin again.

For your information.

(sgd.) J.H. Nicholson.

**SPECIAL BRANCH**  
**REPORT OF TRANSIT OF AN ALIEN**  
**PORT OF SINGAPORE**  
**PENANG**

NAME ..... **Robert DURRER.** .....

Nationality ..... **German.** .....

Date of Arrival ..... **1/3/37.** .....

Whence arrived ..... **Germany.** .....

By what ship ..... **K.L.M. plane.** .....

Particulars of Passport--

No. .... **123/R/300/36.** .....

Date of issue ..... **30/11/36.** ..... Date of renewal .....

Place of issue ..... **Berlin.** .....

Profession ..... **Professor.** .....

Where residing in Singapore ..... **Adelph' W.** .....

Date of departure ..... **2.** .....

Destination ..... **B** .....

By what ship ..... **C** .....

Particulars of British Visa--

No. .... ..

Date of issue .... ..

Place of issue .... ..

Period ..... **One year** .....

REMARKS AND INSTRUCTIONS--

.....

.....

.....